

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method as defined in Claim 9 or 10 wherein the host cell is a prokaryotic cell or an eukaryotic cell.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method as defined in Claim 3 wherein the host cell is a microorganism.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method as defined in Claim 4 wherein the microorganism is *Escherichia coli*.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method as defined in any one of Claims 9 and 10 wherein the molecular weight of the polypeptide comprising a serine residue is about 1000 to 2000.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method as defined in any one of Claims 9 and 10 wherein the polypeptide comprising a serine residue is an atrial natriuretic peptide.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method as defined in Claim 7 wherein the atrial natriuretic peptide is human natriuretic peptide.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A method for reducing formation of a byproduct polypeptide comprising an O-acetylserine residue in place of a serine residue, comprising culturing, in a medium, host cells transformed to produce a recombinant polypeptide comprising a serine